

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03

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R 211215Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1002

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 10412

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, PINT, ET

SUBJ: SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 10198 B) ADDIS ABABA 9949

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR MET WITH DR. JESS HOLM AND HIS WIFE SEPTEMBER 17 TO DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SDA CASE. DR. HOLM REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO IMPORTANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE COURT HEARING REPORTED REF A. DR. HOLM EXPLAINED IN DETAIL THE PROCEDURE WHEREBY THE ETH. \$376,000 CLAIMED FOR SEVERANCE AND COMPENSATION PAY IS BEING COLLECTED. HIS EXPLANATION IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE EXPLANATION WE HAD RECEIVED FROM MR. CHARLES WATSON ON AUGUST 26 AND REPORTED REF. B. UNDER THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENT WHICH WAS CONFIRMED BY THE LOCAL COURT DURING THE SEPTEMBER 10 HEARING, THE ETH. \$376,000 IS TO BE TAKEN FROM THE HOSPITAL'S BANK ACCOUNT PLUS ITS ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AS OF JULY 7, THE DATE OF NATIONALIZATION. LOCAL SDA OFFICIALS NOW INTERPRET THIS DECISION TO MEAN THAT THE HOSPITAL'S BANK ACCOUNT AS OF JULY 7 LESS PAYMENTS FOR BILLS OUTSTANDING AS OF THAT DATE PLUS ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AS OF THAT DATE WILL BE USED TO MEET THE ETH \$376,000. SDA OFFICIALS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTION OF THE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR ALIMONTE HAS BEEN DEVOTING THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS TO THIS COLLECTION EFFORT. ACCORDING TO HOLM, THE TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED PLUS THE BANK BALANCE IS NOW JUST OVER ETH. \$300,000.

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2. DR. HOLM IS VERY ANXIOUS TO LEAVE ETHIOPIA AND IS PLANNING

TO APPLY FOR AN EXIT VISA IMMEDIATELY. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW CASE
AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AS APPROPRIATE.

3. MR. CHARLES WATSON, VICE-PRESIDENT FOR THE AFRO-MIDEAST
DIVISION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS
IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN ADDIS ABABA SEPTEMBER 21. WE ARE HOPEFUL
THAT WHEN WATSON ARRIVES WE WILL BE ABLE TO FIND OUT HOW SDA
HEADQUARTERS INTENDS TO PROCEED IN THE CASE AS WE UNDERSTAND
HE HAS BEEN IN WASHINGTON WHERE HE CONSULTED WITH SDA
LEADERS.
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